



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

March 22, 2026 (Silverton)

## SUMMARY

This sermon explores how God calls believers to use their professional skills and artistic abilities for His glory within the local church and community. Drawing from Exodus 31, Pastor Matt Porter examines how God filled Bezalel and Oholiab with the Holy Spirit to create beautiful things for the tabernacle. The message emphasizes that salvation precedes service—God saves us first, then calls us to good works. Christians are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works that He prepared beforehand. The same creative Spirit that formed the universe dwells in believers, empowering them to serve with excellence. The sermon challenges the congregation to move beyond passive church attendance and engage their God-given gifts in active ministry, recognizing that God doesn't need our service but invites our participation so we can grow in relationship with Him and emulate our Creator Father.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does understanding that God saves us first before working on our morality change the way you approach your relationship with Him and your personal growth?
2. In what ways might you be treating your faith as a 'sacred and secular split' rather than allowing God to use your professional skills and abilities for His glory?
3. The sermon emphasizes that God doesn't need us to create for Him, yet He invites us to participate. Why do you think God chooses to work through human creativity and effort rather than simply doing everything Himself?
4. Bezalel and Oholiab were called because they were already excellent in their crafts. How does the pursuit of excellence in your daily work relate to your spiritual calling and service to God?
5. What does it mean to you personally that the same Holy Spirit who created the universe dwells within you, and how might this truth change the way you approach both ordinary tasks and kingdom work?

6. The pastor mentions that Christians and the evangelical church are often not known for excellence. What might be holding back believers from pursuing beauty, artistry, and excellence in their service to God?
7. How might fear or feelings of inadequacy be preventing you from saying 'Here am I, send me' when it comes to serving in your local church or community?
8. The sermon suggests that we experience deeper spiritual growth when we move from being consumers to active participants in church ministry. Have you found this to be true in your own experience, and why or why not?
9. God called specific people with specific gifts to build the tabernacle using gold, silver, bronze, and precious materials. What does this lavish beauty in God's dwelling place reveal about His character and values?
10. If you truly believed you are God's workmanship created for good works that He prepared beforehand, how would your daily priorities and sense of purpose shift?